

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims:

1-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A pad according to claim 23 for therapeutic correction of thoracic spine positioning in a patient, said pad having a length, a width, a thickness, a top end, a bottom end, and an upper surface, said length of said pad being substantially a length of an upper thoracic spine of the patient, said width of said pad being substantially a width of vertebrae of the upper thoracic spine of the patient, said thickness of said pad being sufficient to induce a mild hyper-extension of the upper thoracic spine of the patient when said pad is positioned between the upper thoracic spine of the patient and a substantially hard surface and when the upper thoracic spine of the patient is pressed against said pad, said top end and said bottom end of said pad being of substantially equal thickness, said upper surface of said pad lies adjacent the upper thoracic spine in use and has a side-view profile shaped to

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accommodate a contour of the patient's spine as the contour evolves from a top end of the upper thoracic spine toward a bottom end of the upper thoracic spine and said upper surface has a symmetrical U-shaped side-view profile that tapers downwardly from a first point near said top end of said pad to a second point some distance from said top end where the tapering stops and that tapers downwardly from a third point near said bottom end of said pad to a fourth point some distance from said bottom end where the tapering stops, wherein between the second and fourth points is a horizontal depression, and wherein the tapering from the first point to the second point and the tapering from the third point to the fourth point are each at about 10 degrees.

5-23. (cancelled)